

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 06512 092144Z

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 EB-08 /023 W

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R 091815Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5999

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 06512

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: BENC, CI

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT- LARGE SCALE MINING

REF: STATE 175015

1. THE ANDACOLLO OREBODY PROJECT IS A LONG-TERM, LARGE SCALE MINING JOINT VENTURE BETWEEN THE GOC (49 PERCENT) AND CANADIAN FIRM NORANDA MINES, LTD. (51 PERCENT).

2. AGREEMENT IS TO UNFOLD IN PHASES, THE FIRST OF WHICH IS A FEASIBILITY STUDY. TO DATE, ONLY EXPLORATORY DRILLING HAS BEEN DONE. UNDER THE CONTRACT, NORANDA HAS TWO YEARS TO COMPLETE FEASIBILITY STUDY. ASSUMING FAVORABLE RESULTS, NORANDA WILL THEN CMNSTRUCT THE MINE OPERATIONS FACILITIES WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN TWO TO THREE AND A HALF YEARS AT AN ESTIMATED COST OF 350 MILLION DOLLARS. AT SOME AS YET UNSPECIFIED TIME, A DECISION WILL BE TAKEN AS TO WHETHER OR NOT TO CONSTRUCT A 150 MILLION DOLLAR SMELTER .

3. THE ANDACOLLO ORE RESERVE IS ESTIMATED AT 300 MILLION MT WITH AN AVERAGE GRADE OF 0.69 PERCENT CU. TOTAL FINE COPPER CONTENT IS ESTIMATED AT 2,080,000 MT. MINE OUTPUT IS ESTIMATED AT 70-75 THOUSAND MT PER YEAR.

4. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GAUGE EXISTENT OPPORTUNITY FOR U.S. FIRM TO PERFORM THIS PARTICULAR STUDY. SUGGEST DRAVO CORP.

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CONTACT NORANDA MINES, LTD. DIRECTLY.

5. AS FOR FUTURE POSSIBILITIES, U.S. FIRMS ARE COMPETITIVE. WE OWULD POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT SOME FIVE U.S. ENGINEERING FIRMS ALREADY HAVE BRANCH OFFICES IN SANTIAGO AND SEVERAL MORE HAVE EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN OPENING SHOP HERE.

6. BELOW FOLLOWS A LIST OF CONTACTS FOR PURPOSES OF U.S.
5.COMMERCIAL INQUIRIES ON LARGE-SCALE MINING PROJECTS:

SOCIEDAD QUIMICA Y MINERA DE CHILE (SOQUIMICH)
TEATINOS 220, 7 PISO
CONTACT: SERGIO MALDONADO GEN MGR.

COMISION CHILENA DEL COBRE
AGUSTINAS 1161
CONTACT: GUSTAVO ZANARTU, ACTING VICE PRESIDENT

CORPORACION NACIONAL DEL COBRE DE CHILE (CODELCO)
HERFANOS 1189, PISO 8
CONTACT: DANILO ROJIC, EXEC. VICE PRESIDENT FOR OPERATIONS

CORPORACION DEL COBRE
DIVISION CHUQUICAMATA
HUERFANOS 8212, PISO 5
CONTACT: NICOLAS TSCHISCHOW, MANAGER

CORPORACION DEL COBRE
DIVISION SALVADOR
MORANDE 673, PISO 9.
CONTACT: ROLF BEHNKE, MANAGER

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DIVISION EL TENIENTE
AGUSTINAS 1389
CONTACT: RAUL CONTRERAS, MANAGER

CORPORACION DEL COBRE
DIVISION ANDINA
AGUSTINAS 1235, PISO 6
CONTACT: ENRIQUE ARTEAGA, MANAGER

EMPRESA MINERA MANTOS BLANCOS S.A.
AGUSTINAS 1360
CONTACT: STANISLAS DAWIDOWICZ, GEN. MANAGER

CIA. MINERA DISPUTADA DE LAS CONDES S.A.
BANDERA 60, PISO 7
CONTACT: GUILLERMO CLERICUS, GEN. MANAGER.
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